United Nations E/C.2/2010/2/Add.42

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 March 2010

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2010 regular session
26 May-4 June 2010

Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

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1. League of Kenya Women Voters

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The League of Kenya Women Voters is a non-partisan political women's membership organization founded in 1992 by a voluntary group of like-minded Kenyan women to advance the rights of women in elective political leadership and other decision-making positions. The League is a non-governmental membership organization registered as an association under the Societies Act, Cap 108 Laws of Kenya.

Mission: to work together with others to promote women's active, free and equal participation in politics and public affairs through the electoral process as voters and leaders.

Vision: a democratic society in Kenya where women are adequately and effectively empowered and are recognized equally as men in their political, social and economical contributions.

The constitution of the League sets out the organizational objectives, criteria for membership, the structure of the board and the day-to-day running of the organization. It also provides for the election of the council, which is in charge of the overall management directions of the organization.

Objectives: The objectives are to: (a) create a place where women of any race, class, creed, age or educational background are encouraged to participate in politics; (b) sensitize society on gender-related issues, especially cultural practices that hinder women's development; (c) enhance confidence and self-esteem in women as leaders and decision-making and to encourage women to vie for all leadership positions in political, economic, religious, social and cultural spheres; (d) impart literacy and awareness on human rights and to eliminate civic inertia among women; (e) identify and assist potential women candidates for elective posts by enabling them to build their capacity; (f) lobby for amendments on legislation that discriminate against women; (g) inform and educate women on matters of national importance and their indispensable leadership role; (h) empower women so as to increase their participation on an equal basis with male counterparts in the political process and use it to solve problems they face as a community.

Programmes: the League's activities are carried out under four programmes: (a) Electoral and Women Leadership Programme: this programme mobilizes, identifies and works with women leaders in capacity-building, political party dialogue and other gender governance initiatives in order to create public demand for women's leadership in Kenya; (b) Governance and Human Rights Programme: this programme works to ensure that national legislation and state policies are responsive to the needs of women. It also monitors the implementation and ratified international human rights agreements; (c) Communication, Research and Gender Advocacy Programme: this programme builds relevant research and documentation to support and improve women's leadership capacities. It also provides a forum to disseminate information to the public on issues around women and leadership, and at that same time providing a platform to enhance the League's image; (d) Economic

Empowerment Programme: this programme empowers women economically to pursue democratic ideals.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Since the 1992 multi-party general elections in Kenya, the democratization process has brought a number of positive developments for empowerment of women in Kenya. The League of Kenya Women Voters (LKWV) has participated in lobbying many of its women appointments to key policy-making positions.

After the 2002 general elections, the Chairperson of LKWV, Hon. Martha Karua, was appointed the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs. LKWV supported over 100 women candidates in both parliamentary and civic elections in Kenya. Ten women were elected to Parliament, eight women were nominated and more than 30 women were elected to local authority councils as councillors and mayors. LKWV, with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), through the Gender and Governance Programme II, has carried out a voter education programme with a strategy campaigning for women, including supporting a team that campaigned for women candidates irrespective of their party affiliations. In 2003, one of our Board Members, Hon. Justice Martha Koome, was appointed Judge of the High Court of Kenya. Another Board Member, Hon. Dr. Julia A. Ojiambo, was nominated to Parliament. Besides the above high-profile appointments, we lobbied for a number of women who were appointed to several senior positions in the government. With support from UNIFEM, LKWV sent five women to the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women with several of our members. In 2004, we continued with our activities of highlighting the many discriminatory laws and practices that legitimize the subordination of women. We lobbied Parliament to pass the women and sexual offences bill that enhanced sentences for sex offenders.

In 2005, with the support of UNIFEM and other development partners, LKWV embarked on a country-wide exercise of identifying capable women candidates for the 2007 general elections in Kenya with an intensified civic and voter education programme throughout the country. LKWV has embraced the spirit of solidarity and cooperation with other women in Kenya to strengthen women's movement both in Kenya and internationally. LKWV has taken into consideration that women in Kenya head most households, the majority being poor. With the support of the government, we embarked on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We are working on areas of poverty reduction, income generation and employment creation, and agriculture. Women are the principal farmers in Kenya; hence, they are the backbone of Kenya's economy, and yet very few own land. LKWV is involved in the land policy to safeguard the interests of women. Owing to the fact that the majority of Kenyan women do not own land, their access to loan facilities is made impossible because they don't have any collateral.

We are glad to report that with support from the United Nations Development Programme, LKWV started a savings and credit society to enable our members to borrow money to start up income-generating activities. This is part of our MDGs programme of activities. LKWV is also training women on reproductive health issues, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, as well as how to effectively lower the child mortality rate. LKWV is especially involved in providing its members and

communities in general with knowledge and skills on preventive interventions to protect them from HIV/AIDS infections through safe sex.

Each and every day women and girls are abused, beaten, and raped/defiled. Violence against women takes place at home, in learning institutions, at work, and within the communities. To end gender-based and sexual violence, LKWV has put in place a paralegal programme to support law enforcement. The majority of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kenya after the 2007 general elections have been women and children. The minister in charge of IDPs is a woman (Ministry for Special Programmes); LKWV is keenly following the resettlement of the IDPs in the country.

Since 2003, we have continuously worked on the Beijing Platform for Action by carrying out a programme called "Bringing Beijing Home".

Currently, LKWV is involved in the constitution drafting process in Kenya in order to safeguard the gains of women in the draft constitution. As the majority of Kenyan women know very little about the constitution or the constitution-making process, LKWV will be engaged in an intensive civic education programme on the draft constitution, starting in February 2010, in preparation for a referendum vote that will be carried out countrywide. In January 2009, Mrs. Alice Muthoni Wahome was elected the Chairperson of LKWV. She is a senior counsellor (lawyer) in Kenya and is currently working with the Committee of Experts on the new constitution in Kenya.

Achievements: In 2004, the Government of Kenya put in place a permanent Gender Commission to look into the affairs of women, of which LKWV is a member. The Government of Kenya, responding to CEDAW requirements with MDG programmes and affirmative action of women education, lowered the entry points (marks) for female students applying for university.

2. National Tropical Botanical Garden

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) aims to enrich life through discovery, scientific research, conservation and education by perpetuating the survival of plants, ecosystems and cultural knowledge of tropical regions. Through its network of botanical gardens, state-of-the-art research and horticulture complexes, and living and resource collections, the organization's purposes are to: (a) establish, develop, operate and maintain an educational and scientific centre with libraries, herbaria, laboratories and museums to encourage and conduct research in basic and applied tropical botany; (b) foster and encourage fundamental research in tropical plant life and study the uses of tropical flora in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, medicine and other sciences; (c) share knowledge acquired relative to basic and applied tropical botany through publications and other media; (d) collect and cultivate tropical flora and to preserve species of tropical plant life threatened with extinction; and (e) provide a facility which contributes to education, instruction, and recreation.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it focused its activities on the development and implementation of programmes on native plant conservation, ecosystem restoration, and educational programmes for underserved youth, working primarily with governmental and local organizations in Hawai'i. The organization would have performed much better in the implementation of United Nations programmes if not for the following problems, which are ongoing: scarce funds and few representative staff make attendance at international meetings very difficult.

While NTBG staff and programmes had little direct activity with United Nations programmes from 2005 to 2008, activities supporting and enhancing areas related to our ECOSOC Special Consultative Status included presentations and expeditions and hosting an Ethnobotany Summit in 2007, involving NGOs and other participants, focused on NTBG's participation and support of global activities to promote cultural/ethno-botanical knowledge. The major outcome of this summit was the "Kaua'i Declaration: Ethnobotany, the Science of Survival", published in the journal *Economic Botany* (2007).

The Director of the Breadfruit Institute collaborated in the organization of and spoke on conserving traditional varieties of economic plants and direct marketing and value-added strategies for agroforestry at the Trees for Improving Profitability, Sustainability, and Resource Management on Farms and Ranches Workshop (2006, Hagatna, Guam and Koror, Palau); in situ conservation of breadfruit in the Pacific Islands and promoting the conservation and sustainable use of breadfruit at the Society for Economic Botany Annual Meeting (June 2006, Thailand); and breadfruit

diversity, conservation, and potential, keynote address, at the First International Symposium on Breadfruit Research and Development (2007, Nadi, Fiji); and exploring the global potential of a traditional Pacific crop for food security, agroforestry, and sustainable agriculture at Botany 2008 (2008, Canada).

The Director of the Breadfruit Institute performed fieldwork in the Federated States of Micronesia to document breadfruit diversity, ethnobotanical and cultural practices (2005); The First International Symposium on Breadfruit Research and Development (2007, Fiji), was organized/sponsored by the Breadfruit Institute, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Land Resources Division, and European Union-Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), with financial assistance provided by International Centre for Underutilised Crops, Global Facilitation Unit for Underutilized Species, Global Crop Diversity Trust, and German Agency for Technical Cooperation. The Pacific Agricultural Genetic Resources Network Symposium was held to review progress on breadfruit research, analyse needs and priorities, develop strategies for conservation of breadfruit genetic resources, prioritize needed work in breadfruit research and development, and explore news ways to use breadfruit diversity and improve breadfruit production. Outcomes included 36 recommendations with the major recommendation acknowledging that the breadfruit collection and the work of NTBG make a significant contribution globally to breadfruit conservation, research and development. The Symposium stimulated international collaboration, information exchange and networking on breadfruit and the proceedings for this Symposium were published in 2007 by the International Society for Horticultural Science as *Acta Horticulturae 757*.

Activities supporting GSPC target ii included: (a) since 2004, the Conservation Department at NTBG has grown from four personnel to over 20, and spawned a second department named Living Collections and Horticulture. Conservation at NTBG has: (a) spearheaded the development of the most comprehensive programme for monitoring rare native plants in the Hawai'ian Islands; (b) our collectors have discovered over 30 new species here, and many more in the islands of the South Pacific, and also relocated many species historically collected but believed extinct; (c) innovative large-scale conservation has been a key focus at NTBG between 2004-2008, as NTBG's conservationists geared up for the increasing challenges of climate change, encroaching development, and biological invasion in Hawai'i and elsewhere in the tropics; (d) using techniques broadly defined under the rubric of *inter situ* conservation, NTBG has developed that fertile ground between classic in situ and ex situ techniques; (e) by cropping large quantities of suitable seeds, we are reintroducing appropriate native plants to the ecologically restored 117 hectare offshore islet of Lehua, near Ni'ihau; (f) in the Upper Limahuli Preserve, a remote hanging valley owned entirely by NTBG, we have built an 8 km ungulate-proof fence around one of the most pristine habitats remaining on Kaua'i, featuring at least 34 at-risk plant species and 13 federally listed endangered species, while simultaneously providing nesting habitat for highly endangered sea birds.

Activities supporting GSPC target iii included: (a) the Breadfruit Institute worked with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Global Crop Diversity Trust to develop a global breadfruit conservation strategy (2007); (b) formed a collaborative research team with the University of British Columbia Okanagan and the University of Guelph to develop in vitro propagation methods to facilitate long-term conservation of breadfruit genetic resources and distribute varieties globally

for food security, identify varieties with salinity tolerance, conduct detailed nutritional analyses to identify nutrient-rich varieties and ones with potential for value-added products such as flour (2004-2008); (c) tested inexpensive methods to process breadfruit into flour with US-based NGO Compatible Technology International and University of St. Thomas, Minnesota (2008); partnered with US-based NGO, Sustainable Harvest International, to distribute selected breadfruit varieties to subsistence farmers in Honduras; 365 plants were distributed to 31 families in five communities (2007).

Activities supporting GSPC target vi included: (a) collaborative affiliations between NTBG and the New York Botanical Garden between 2004 and 2008 focused on botanical exploration of various islands in Micronesia, including Pohnpei and Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Belau; (b) a survey and assessment of the invasive species of Belau was conducted in 2008 in collaboration with the US Forest Service and Government of Belau; (c) collaborative partnerships were developed with the Belau National Museum, Government of Belau, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, and the Conservation and Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization.

Activities supporting GSPC target x included: (a) NTBG's Limahuli Garden's plan and execution to clear invasive species, replanting with native plants and Kahanu eradication of invasive species in native Hala forest (2003); (b) NTBG's establishment of an Integrated Pest Management Programme (2004); and hosting the 2004 Conservation Summit (see part II above); (c) NTBG also entered into a benefit-sharing agreement with the Government of Samoa via a Memorandum of Understanding (2008). NTBG will return to the Government of Samoa 50 per cent of the net licensing fees it receives for every plant of a Samoan breadfruit variety from the NTBG breadfruit collection that is sold and distributed through a commercial horticultural company.

Activities supporting GSPC target xiv included: (a) NTBG's Project Stewardship Programme actively engages children in conservation efforts (2002); (b) expansion of NTBG's tour programme, materials, lectures, etc., for public (local and global) education to include protecting ecosystems information; and initiation of a programme to train K-12 teachers to link cultural and traditional plant knowledge (2004).

3. Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Special, 1999

I. Introduction

Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran (CNWT) is the only official network of NGOs in Iran. It started its activity in 1995 and today has more that 900 NGO members from all over the country. It has had consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1999. The network, according to its charter, has a president, a vice-president, a chief executive, treasurer and a secretary. Its Central Council consists of 15 official members, five alternative members and two inspectors who manage the network's affairs. The powers of the Central Council have been assigned to the president/chief executive of the network. The Central Council has obtained its powers from the General Assembly of the network. It makes decisions regarding the policies, and the President of the Council takes action. The network allocates its income through collecting membership fees and rarely through research and educational projects and contracts offered by private institutes.

Aims of the organization: (a) Exchange information and experiences and develop communication among members of the network and national and international organizations, within the framework of the rules of the Constitutional Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran; (b) defend women's rights and dignity and the status of women in the family and society; (c) promote cultural, artistic, social and economics activities of women in society; (d) increase the role of women in different social fields in order to remove and waive gender prejudices; (e) make the society aware of the rights of women; (f) give advice, make presentations to decision makers and institutes for the purpose of removing legal and executive obstacles to the empowerment of women; (g) create coordination between activities of women's NGOs of I.R.I. in the areas of administration and research in order to attain the aims of the network and its members; and (h) administer education and research in order to attain the network's objectives.

The network promotes activities on the basis of educational and research statistics and exchanges experiences and information among women NGOs at domestic, national, regional and international levels. The CNWN activities according to the nature and goals of the NGOs: (a) education and research NGOs; (b) communication and mass media; (c) human rights organizations; (d) cultural and social organizations; (e) health organizations; (f) charity organizations; (g) scientific and professional organizations; (h) religious minority organizations (Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian); (i) organizations for the handicapped; and (j) information technology organizations.

CNWN members: age 18-70; education: high school diploma to doctoral degree, Muslims and non-Muslims.

Important activities include: (a) obtaining permanent observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC); (b) presenting three national reports emphasizing the role of women in the international assemblies and presenting experts in the field of women's issues; (c) approving statistics on people-oriented

organization by the Higher Council of Statistics; (d) publishing a journal on women's issues; (e) designing a Masters Degree Programme on non-governmental management approved and executed by the Islamic Azad University; (f) establishing specialty libraries on NGO resources; (g) cooperation in providing people-oriented organization laws to be presented to Parliament; (h) organizing one general assembly and two annual assemblies; (i) organizing workshops in different provinces of the country on 12 critical women's issues; (j) increasing CNWN members from 550 women NGOs (in 2004) to 924 NGOs today; (k) maintaining a network website; (l) expanding CNWN activities and memberships all over the country; (m) presenting a project to create almost 100,000 jobs per year to the Ministry of Work and the Ministry of Information Technology; (n) conducting administrative research on women's issues, marriage and family in Iran; (o) establishing a people-oriented faction in the parliament; (p) participating in United Nations meetings and conferences: CNWN members have been very active in participating in the international meetings and sessions organized by the United Nations all over the world, including in New York in celebration of the International Women's Day in March 2005, 2006 and 2007; members participated in the international women's human rights committees in Bangkok in 2006, in the Durban Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001, and in the Human Rights Commission Council in Geneva in the period 2005-2008.

4. Project Concern International

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

Aims and purpose of the organization: Motivated by our concern for the world's most vulnerable children, families and communities, Project Concern International (PCI) envisions a world where abundant resources are shared, communities are able to provide for the health and well-being of their members, and children and families can achieve lives of hope, good health and self-sufficiency. The mission is to prevent disease, improve community health and promote sustainable development. PCI currently operates in the following 15 countries: Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Botswana, South Africa, India, Indonesia, Bolivia, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. PCI's work will be distinguished by the following operating principles: accountability, integration, capacity-building and responsiveness. PCI's core values are: we value health as a basic human right, we promote equitable access, we work as partners, we require integrity, we celebrate diversity, we promote gender equality, we support community self-determination, we expect breakthroughs, we take action, and we believe that people are our organization.

Significant changes in the organization: In 2003-2004, PCI underwent an intensive strategic planning process that resulted in a new organizational strategic plan, as well as country- and department-specific operating plans for 2004-2009. The organization's vision, mission, operating principles, core values and strategic priorities were completely redone, utilizing an organization-wide process of strategic planning, environmental scanning and direction setting.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: The organization's representatives participated in the following: (a) the World AIDS Conferences (Canada, 2006, Mexico, 2008); (b) co-facilitated the UNICEF and the WFP Technical Consultation on Food Security, Nutrition and Children Affected by HIV and AIDS (Italy, 2007) and participated in the development of a Consensus Statement; (c) in 2007 was invited as a resource person in the WHO Asia Regional Technical Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Nutrition (Thailand); (d) one of PCI staff members in India was selected, from a pool of hundreds of HIV-positive women, to be the one representative from Asia on the UNAIDS Women and AIDS Tour to the United States.

Cooperation with United Nations and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters: PCI and partners, including the World Food Programme (WFP), hosted a Forum entitled "Food Insecurity and HIV/AIDS: The Dual Epidemics of HIV/AIDS and Food Insecurity in Africa" (2006, Zambia). The Forum provided an important opportunity for local NGOs and international public health and development organizations to share experiences in integrating HIV/AIDS, food security, and nutrition programming, both to strengthen collective efforts, as well as

to inform policy decisions based on "frontline" realities. The Forum built on the World Health Organization (WHO) Consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in Africa and the International Food Policy Research Institution Conference on HIV/AIDS and Food and Nutrition Security (South Africa, 2005). The Forum served as a platform for relationship-building between implementing organizations to foster collaborative learning and the incorporation of such learning into the design, funding, and delivery of future programmes.

Building upon this growing recognition, in late 2006, PCI convened an advocacy group comprised of 43 members representing 25 organizations, including several United Nations agencies (WHO, WFP). Through monthly conference calls and regular e-mail communiqués, this informal group, now known as FANSHA (Food and Nutrition Security and HIV&AIDS Advocacy Group), has fostered information sharing, strategizing and coordination focused on this critical topic. The group's overarching purpose is to strengthen awareness of the interaction between food and nutrition insecurity and HIV and AIDS with the aim of influencing key decisions and processes that encourage reduced risk of HIV transmission and increase resilience to HIV/AIDS, building on the AF06 Declaration.

In 2008, UNAIDS agreed to partner with PCI on the development and launch of the "next generation" prevention technology programmes that achieve changes in destructive social norms that drive the epidemic (such as gender inequality, sexual violence, stigma and discrimination, acceptance of risky sexual practices, etc.). PCI and UNAIDS co-convened a meeting of major donors and other policy leaders/academics to jointly present a prototype for the "next generation" of prevention, i.e., social change/social mobilization programmes. Presentations included (a) a review of social change programmes to date; (b) the social mobilization prototype; (c) cost estimates of social mobilization programmes; and (d) a monitoring and evaluation framework for social change programmes. This collaboration eventually helped lead to a major social mobilization programme to combat gender-based violence in South Africa as an HIV/AIDS prevention strategy.

In May 2007, UNAIDS published a Case Study in monograph form of PCI's year-long walk (2004-2005) in India, "Overcoming HIV/AIDS Step by Step: The AIDS Walk for Life in India".

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: (a) 10,722 households documented an increased income through income generating programmes. On average, the recorded increase in household income was 94 per cent in programmes in Bolivia and Nicaragua; (b) 14,920 members of self-help groups in Ethiopia and Zambia were provided with loans; (c) 296,965 children were documented with improved nutrition in Nicaragua, Ethiopia and Zambia.

Goal 2: achieve universal primary education: (a) 181,440 children with improved attendance/performance in school through food for education programmes in Nicaragua and Bolivia; and (b) at least 1,366,077 children provided with daily school breakfast.

Goal 3: promote gender equality and empower women: (a) 18,592 women provided with microenterprise support through programmes in Nicaragua, India, Ethiopia and Zambia; and (b) 177,511 women were provided with education/training.

Goal 4: reduce child mortality: (a) at least 52,584 children received health and medical services; and (b) according to analysis in Nicaragua, there was a 65 per cent improvement in growth levels among targeted children.

Goal 5: improve maternal health: (a) over 30,825 women were reached with midwifery care or maternal health services in the Huehuetenango district of Guatemala.

Goal 6: combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: (a) according to a 2008 cohort analysis, 91.2 per cent of persons with TB reached by PCI in 13 priority states of Mexico were cured, compared to a national average cure rate of 84.1 per cent; and (b) 356,725 orphans and other vulnerable children reached with comprehensive services (education, nutrition, health, psychosocial, etc.) in Nicaragua, Zambia and Ethiopia.

Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability: (a) 29 comprehensive water systems established benefiting 8,703 individuals in Nicaragua; (b) 982 latrines built directly impacting 5,407 people in Nicaragua; (c) and 35 water and sanitation networks throughout Central America were strengthened.

Activities in support of global principles: PCI participates in a wide variety of ways in the following: World AIDS Day, World Water Day, International Women's Day, World Health Day, World Food Day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and World Breastfeeding Week. Information is shared and special events are held. A particularly important set of events took place on World AIDS Day 2004 and 2005, which was the PCI AIDS Walk for Life.

PCI has not participated as fully as possible in the work of the Economic and Social Council primarily owing to competing priorities and limited resources (human and financial). It is important to note, however, that in this particular reporting period (2005-2008), PCI participation at the regional and international level increased and improved tremendously over previous years owing at least in part to the organization's increasing reputation in selected areas of work such as integrated HIV/AIDS and food/nutrition security.

5. Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Special, 1985

I. Introduction

The Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (WMSAMEC) was established in 1864. The Society, in essence, the social outreach arm of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, endeavours to make possible opportunities and resources to meet the changing needs and concerns of peoples throughout the world. We have well-established Societies around the world, including in virtually every state in the United States of America, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Central Africa, Central America, Dominican Republic, England, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Namibia, South Africa, other Southern Africa nations, Suriname, Trinidad, West Africa, and most recently, India. The primary concerns of the Society are issues relative to women, children and families; however, it is recognized that almost everything affects our core concerns, and that the whole community must be addressed.

We continue our affiliations with a number of other organizations with similar concerns, such as: Church Women United, National Council of Negro Women, World Federation of Methodist Women, Bread for the World, the Children's Defense Fund, the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and many others.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: During the report period 2005-2008, the Organization has continued to exercise every opportunity to be involved at the United Nations, its affiliated organizations such as the Department of Public Information, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, the United Nations Foundation and others. The Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church takes very seriously its affiliation with the United Nations, and makes every attempt to promote the work of the Economic and Social Council, and disseminate the information obtained through the Department of Public Information. The appointed Representatives attend regular briefings and other special meetings held at the United Nations. The Organization was unable to send representatives to the Economic and Social Council meetings held abroad, but rather chose to spend those funds supporting and implementing programmes and projects that relate to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other programmes that benefited our designated areas of interest.

Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Throughout the 20 districts of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, local churches operate food and clothing banks, hospital and nursing home visitations, drug recovery programmes, school supplies and mentoring programmes, scholarship programmes, violence against women preventive programmes, soup kitchens, HIV/AIDS programming and testing, and more. These programmes affect the lives of virtually tens of thousands of people on a regular basis. Over the past four years, we have held our annual NGO conference the third week in October at

the United Nations. We have offered workshops, seminars and panel discussions staffed by United Nations personnel. Following is a short summary of the quadrennial programming:

2005: Theme: "NGO's: Partners in the Promise: Fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals". In 2005, our focus was on the MDGs. We worked to educate, advocate and participate in programmes that would help as we seek to do our part in the fulfilment of each of the MDGs to the best of our ability. We continued our Maama Kit Initiative, which began in 2004. We journeyed to Mozambique to initiate the distribution of the kits to provide the means for a clean, safe environment for the delivery of babies in the rural/bush area, which lacks hospitals or clinics and depends on midwives or traditional medical techniques. The kits consisted of sterile gauze pads, razor blades, plastic sheeting, cotton rolls, and other simple items for safe birthing. We also continued our partnership with the US Fund for UNICEF and participated in its annual trick or treat for UNICEF campaign, and began an ongoing involvement with the "School in a Box" programme, financing several boxes. Our youth also participated in a letter-writing campaign with children of war-torn areas through UNICEF. Also, we were able to affect the lives of some of the more than 15 million children under the age of 18 whose mothers, fathers, or both parents have died because of AIDS through the UNICEF/HIV/AIDS-OVCs. We raised over $35,000 towards this effort, and received an award from the US Fund for UNICEF for our efforts.

2006: Theme: "The WMS Agent for Change: MACRO Impacting the Future". Our 2006 efforts continued to focus on the MDGs in both education and advocacy. Our "School in a Box" campaign continued and the "Unite for Children-Unite against AIDS" initiative was expanded. We also began a campaign of awareness and aid for the peoples of Darfur. We partnered with "My Sister's Keeper", providing financial aid for the subsistence of the refugees of the Sudan. At our 2006 conference, we hosted presentations from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

2007: Theme: "WMS — Continuing the Legacy, Embracing the Past, Empowered for the Future". Our 2007 efforts again promoted the MDGs as we began our partnership with UNFPA, embracing their campaign to end obstetric fistula. We embarked on a major fund-raising campaign. We held a Connection-wide Mother's Day drive that would educate as well as raise funds for obstetric fistula. We singled out MDG 7, and partnered with UNICEF working on the water and sanitation projects and the Tap Project.

2008: Theme: "The Women's Missionary Society: Celebrating 20 Years of NGO Global Witness, Ministry and Service". During 2008, we looked inward as we celebrated 20 years of holding NGO conferences at the United Nations. We celebrated Sister Wilhelmina Lawrence (deceased), the visionary President whose efforts in 1985 led to our NGO status. However, our inward look spawned a renewed energy to continue our focus on the MDGs and the campaigns that would afford us the opportunity to make a difference. We continued our fistula campaign efforts and began preparations to visit Malawi in late 2009 or early 2010 for the first distribution of funds for surgeries. We are in conversation with UNFPA to help facilitate the trip and the distribution. We will also be sending funds to Ghana for distribution to hospitals and clinics through UNFPA. We also identified microcredit as our next major campaign and began to work out the logistics of the effort.

6. World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises

Special, 1989

Aims of the organization: The major objectives of the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) are: (a) articulating concerns and interests of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) at various national, regional and international forums; (b) developing relationships between SMEs in developed and developing countries by encouraging enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation; (c) networking with related/similar organizations; (d) expanding collaboration with United Nations agencies and international organizations; (e) capacity-building of SMEs through managerial and skill development programmes; (f) disseminating information on and about international developments in the SME sector; and (g) carrying out research and studies on topical issues confronting SMEs. Since its inception, WASME has been striving to stimulate, foster, promote and coordinate international cooperation and movement for the growth and development of SMEs.

In 2005-2009, WASME continued with its activities aimed at espousing the cause of SMEs around the world. It set up a Permanent Mission to the United National Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other United Nations organizations in cooperation with the European Institute for Economic Development in the last quarter of 2006. It submitted a Cooperation Memo to UNIDO (Austria, 2007). WASME was accorded observer status by the World Customs Organization in 2007.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

WASME participated as follows: (a) made a statement at the 21st session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (Thailand, 2005); (b) participated in 31st session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO (Vienna, 2006); (c) participated in the first session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (Switzerland, 2006); (d) participated in the 175th session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Executive Board (France, 2006); (e) participated at the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Second International Business Conference (Nigeria, 2006); (f) participated in the 40th anniversary celebrations of UNIDO (Austria, 2006); (g) participated at the 32nd session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO (Austria, 2006); (h) participated in the 33rd session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO (Austria, 2007); (i) presented a paper at the national seminar held by the Planning Commission of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on human development issues: capacity development in Indian States (India, 2007); (j) participated in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Forum on Decent Work for a Fair Globalization (Portugal, 2007); (k) participated in the 34th session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO (Austria, 2008); (l) participated in the 64th session of ESCAP (Thailand, 2008).

Other meetings: Participated in (a) the first annual General Meeting of International Network for SMEs (Barcelona, 2005); (b) XVIth WASME International Conference on SMEs (Romania, 2005); (c) the 50th World Conference on International Council for Small Business (United States of America, 2005); (d) the XVIIth WASME World SME Convention (Republic of Korea, 2006); (e) the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Global Conference (Greece, 2006); (f) the 3rd World SME Expo (Hong Kong SAR of China, 2006); (g) the OECD Global Conference on "Enhancing the Role of SMEs in Global Value Chains" (Japan, 2007); (h) the Seminar on Small Cyber Enterprises: Business and Market Development for Sustainability (India, 2007); (i) the Expert Meeting on Comparing Best Practices for Creating an Environment Conducive to Maximizing Development Benefits, Economic Growth and Investment in Developing Countries and Countries in Transition (Switzerland, 2007); (j) addressed the National Convention organized by the National Council of Small and Medium-sized Private Enterprises in Romania (Romania, 2008); (k) delivered a statement at the 4th International Conference on Women Leadership and Small and Medium Enterprises Exhibition 2008 (Pakistan, 2008); (l) participated in the national MSME Award Function (India, 2008); (m) participated in the 10th Jubilee Small and Business Medium Enterprises Fair (Montenegro, 2008); (n) participated in the 35th International Small Business Congress (Northern Ireland, 2008); (o) participated in the "National Top of Private Enterprises — Top 2007 — XVIth Edition" event, organized by the National Council of Small and Medium-sized Private Enterprises in Romania (2008).

Other activities: research studies: completed a field-based study for the Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Government of India, entitled "Role and Challenges of Small Service Enterprises in India" (2005-2006); completed a feasibility study for bioenergy mission cell, Government of Uttar Pradesh, India, on installing the bio-gas plants in the Naxalite villages of Sonbhadra District of Uttar Pradesh Province in India.